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The Negro Farmer and Messenger

Published Bi-Weekly in the Interest of the Home, Farm and Garden; especially devoted to the Interest of Negro Land Owners and Tenant Farmers

and Those Who Employ Negro Labor. The Only Negro Farm Newspaper in the World to be Circulated Among 2,000,000 Black Farmers.

Vol. 3 TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., DECEMBER 16, 1916 No. 25

Agriculture in The Public Schools

By F. H. Cardozo

Director of Agriculture, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College

It Should Be More General

I feel very strongly that there is no use talking about agriculture in the public schools as it is being done in white schools, but as it should be done in colored schools. Of course, my political friends everywhere will at once call me by various unpleasant names for taking this attitude, but that will hardly deter me from being honest in the matter, and their opinion will perhaps change, when they get further explanations.

In the first place, and we might as well "bank" on this idea, there is not now, nor is there going to be in the near future, any funds worth speaking of, given to all colored public schools to promote agricultural teaching, yet that is what the best and largest public schools have, viz., money to buy simple apparatus and material to better teach fundamental principles underlying agriculture and horticulture. Yet, from my experience in teaching agricultural subjects both to young people and to grown matured county and State teachers, we can and should successfully teach agriculture to pupils, regardless of grade, or absence of specially bought apparatus, and make that subject one of the number of R's; that is, reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic, and 'riculture. For the present, it should be compulsory.

This education-for-country-life-principle should be taught in schools by all teachers, whether they have classes in actual agriculture or not. But most of them are too crazy about the city or town themselves, and won't get out of the narrow rut of their lives and try to find out that there are other things in the world worth learning about, besides mathematics, English and history.

You may never expect anything in agriculture from such people. I believe there is such a thing as being too literary. For your health's sake, as well as developing a higher moral sense, get out into the country, into the woods, not necessarily for rabbits or birds, but for plants, flowers, and an appreciation of nature and nature's wonders. I call all that agriculture.

How to Go At It

Without going into the methods of teaching agriculture, as that is a big subject by itself, I must say here that teachers in rural and city schools ought to do more teaching of horticulture in itself, and less of deep plowing, manures, and rotation. Such important things come in time. Purely theoretical folks will of course, disagree with me there, but I would rather get the love of my pupils for the flower, its growth and care, giving him or her pure agriculture some other time, than to get the praise of the strict pedagogical theorists. I find that this method pays, both in interest and results.

As a supporter of the above, which has been my practice during the years, I mention the fact that the States of Alabama and Florida have adopted as their State text in agriculture, Duggar's book, whose first chapter, and succeeding chapter, treat the flower in detail, followed by some plant physiology, then the stricter agricultural principles in order, methods, correct practice, etc., later on, in the text. This is as it should be, and makes that book as a text superior to many, at least for use up to and including 8th grade.

It is An Essential Subject

It is just as essential that agriculture, practical nature study, school gardening, or whatever name you may wish to apply to this particular applied science (as far as public schools are concerned), be taught in the public schools, as it is to teach manual training, geography, or drawing. It must be so, or else so many up-to-date public schools all over the country would not be employing a special teacher for the subject in question. If you don't want to call it agriculture or horticulture in the school curriculum, then call it biology, or anything, and make a start, and teach our boys and girls something that will open their eyes to the wonderful surroundings they live in, correlating all the English, mathematics and science with the leaves, flowers, roots, soil, seed, rocks, trees, rain, and the propagation and growing of plants and animals for a living, as well as pleasure. You cannot successfully teach agriculture without these "academic" subjects to help you, to save your life.

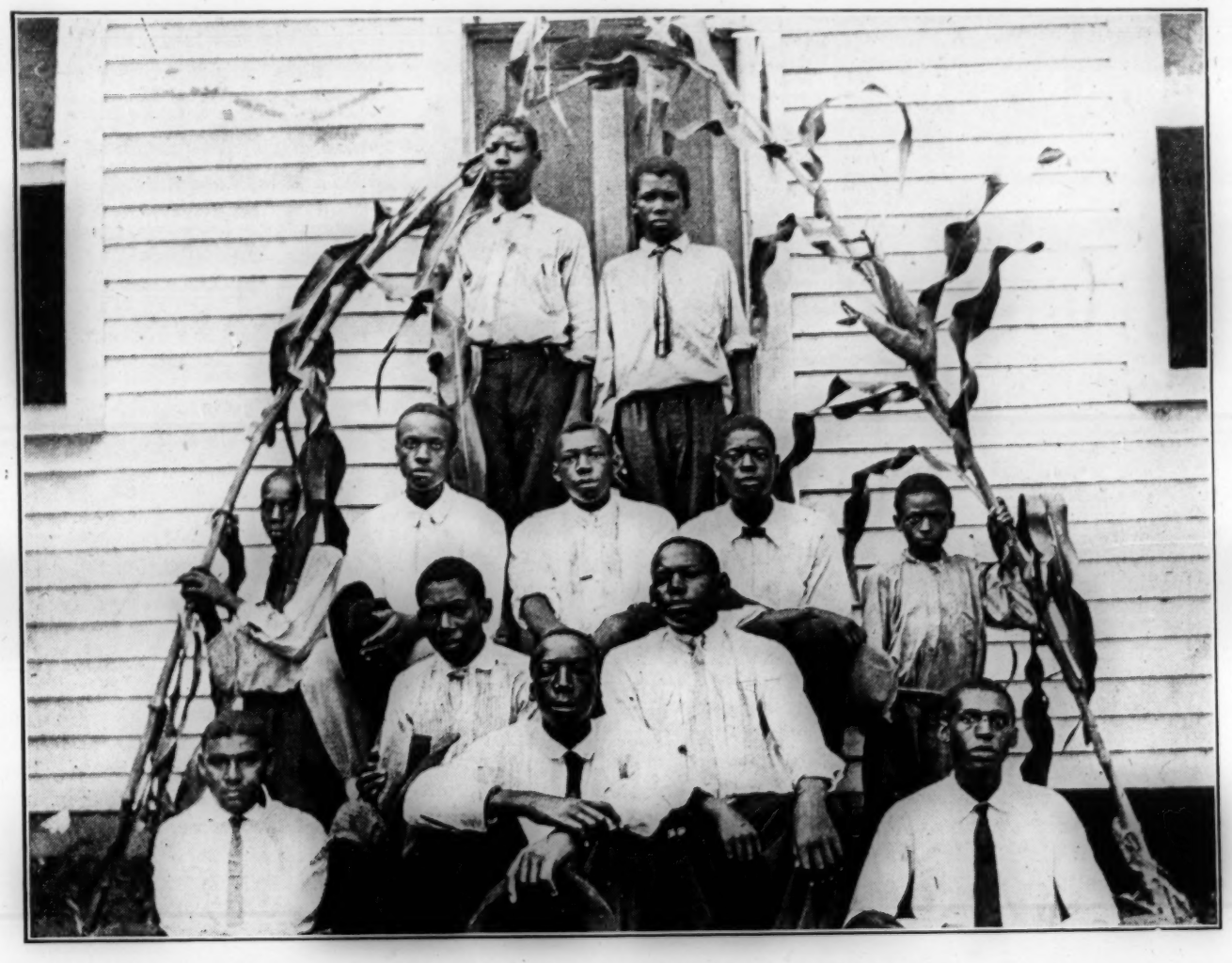
Don't try to.

Why A Comparatively Few Colored Public Schools Teach Agriculture

Most of the difficulty in getting agriculture teaching into the public schools, is due to the crass indifference, and the utter lack of interest, and the lack of a decent virile personality of the average school principal and his assistant teachers. This is true in Florida, Alabama, and other Southern States, generally.

This is a fact. You and I know it is so. You and I both know that neither the county superintendent, nor the country board is going to worry themselves whether agriculture is taught or not, and if it is, they are not going to interfere. Yet, in most of the States agriculture teaching in the public schools is compulsory by State law. It is only "enforced," as the principal sees fit, as far as most of the Negro public schools are concerned. Oh, for more school principals who have the courage and wisdom to take up school gardens, flower plots, or indoor window gardens, and make it a success. What better laboratory would you want to have for botany teaching, economic entomology, general biology, and horticultural teaching? All of that giving you such fine educational benefits, and getting a beautiful landscape improvement, indoor and out, to boot.

But I am afraid that some of us have allowed our education to turn us skyward instead of earthward, and then, we are just drawing a salary—nothing more. Short courses, correspondence courses in agriculture, or such agencies, can help prepare any and every teacher, not already prepared, who find themselves in the position to teach the subject, and would like to do so, or because they are asked to. Don't say, "I don't care," "I am not paid for that," etc., but Mr. or Miss Principal, get busy, and do your duty by your pupils, whether country or city. It is the



AGRICULTURE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

duty of the farmers and citizens who patronize our schools to see to it, to compel the schools to teach agriculture, as the State has decreed, and too, that will help the farmers to keep their children on the farm longer, not discontented, but vitally interested.

Why An Agricultural Education Pays

1—Because it learns to make life a glory instead of a grind.

2—It opens a little wider the door of a narrow life.

3—Adds to the lens of the microscope.

4—Knows how to take the dreamy drudgery out of life.

5—To taste the exhilaration of feeling one's power unfold.

6—To push one's horizon farther out in order to get a wider outlook or a clearer vision.

POSSIBILITIES OF THE SWEET POTATO

BY PROF. G. W. CARVER,
Director of Experiment Station, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

The article below is taken from Bulletin No. 30, by Professor G. W. Carver, Director of Experiment Station, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. In this Bulletin Professor Carver takes an old text, but preaches a rich and most powerful sermon in a most interesting manner and we are sending it out through the columns of THE NEGRO FARMER AND MESSENGER in the hope that our readers may take these wholesome lessons and weave them into their farm activities for the New Year and demonstrate as never before that "The earth is full of Thy riches."

To those who may say, "I have read this before," I would say to you the same as the minister said to his congregation who wanted to turn him off because he wouldn't take a new text. "Have you complied with the suggestions of the last text? Have you done what I told you in my last sermon?" The answer was negative. "Now then," says the minister, "you may threaten to turn me off as much as you please, but until I see some practical evidence of your living up to the first text, I see no reason for a new text."—Editor.

If there is one crop more than another, that Macon County can produce year by year and with almost unerring certainty, it is the sweet potato crop. Now what is true of Macon County is true of the adjoining counties, and is more or less true of the entire South.

History

It is said that the early navigators of the sixteenth century recognized such a strong resemblance between the Irish potato and the sweet potato that they called them both by the same name.

They are not only different botanically, but the edible parts of each are in character and taste quite unlike.

Botanically, the sweet potato belongs to the morning glory family, and has been given the technical name of Ipomeabatatas.

Origin

The origin of the sweet potato is doubtful, although there is very strong evidence that it is distinctly American, as fifteen or sixteen known species of the genus Batatas are found in the country. The "Indian potato," "Tuckahoe," and "Hog potato," which grow abundantly in this country and throughout the South, are all species of this genus.

Varieties

More than 100 so-called varieties make up the present list, many of which there is a distinction without a well defined difference.

Since some varieties do well in one section and practically fail in others, I have thought wise to list none except those that have proven the most and best with us.

Table varieties: Dooley Yam, Improved Dooley, Yam, Triumph, and Pumpkin Yam.

Varieties for feeding stock: These grow to a very large size and make a very fine yield, but are not very sweet and rather inferior for table use—White Bermuda, Red Nansemond, "Negro Choker" and Hayti Spanish.

Climate and Soil

As to climate, the sweet potato thrives and does best only in a warm climate, with plenty of sunshine and moderate showers, evenly distributed throughout the growing season. In this Macon County is especially favored.

The soil for the most part is considered a light grey, with an admixture of sand, varying from 11 to 85 per cent and seems especially adapted to the growing of not only large yields, but potatoes of exceptionally fine flavor.

Heavy, waxy, clay soils, are not conducive to heavy yields of potatoes, but fortunately there is but very little soil of this kind in the county.

Selecting the Seed

Experiments seem to indicate that very large potatoes are not preferable for seed, but those measuring from an inch to an inch and a half in diameter; should be smooth, long or round as the variety suggests, and free from any woody or stringy appearance. Discard any having specks of decay or that have blemishes of any kind. Also select seed from those hills that show the largest percentages of marketable potatoes, the best flavor, the richest color and the largest yield.

The Plant Bed

Select as warm and sunny place as possible; further protect by banking up on north side with earth.

Build an ordinary plank cold frame from five to six feet wide and any length desired, facing and sloping towards the south, having its south wall several inches lower than the north wall. Bank up well on the outside, and protect from water by running a little ditch around on the outside. Remove the earth within the frame to a depth of from 4 to 12 inches; spread a thin layer of oak leaves or pine straw on the bottom of this excavation. Upon this place a layer of manure from 4 to 6 inches thich. On this lay the sweet potatoes side by side, horizontally, and just far enough away to keep them from touching each other. Cover with good rich garden soil to a depth to two or three inches; cover with sash or canvas oiled with linseed or cotton seed oil.

Preparation of Land

In this county the land should be broadcasted to a depth of 9 or 10 inches. If barnyard manure, muck, leaves, etc., are to be used as a fertilizer, it should be broadcasted and plowed in. Harrow repeatedly until the soil is thoroughly pulverized and mixed. If commercial fertilizers are used, apply in the drill, the same as for cotton.

If the largest quantity possible is desired per acre, make the rows 2½ feet in width. Ordinarily the rows are from 3 to 3½ feet from center to center.

Planting

In setting the plants it is very essential that the ridges be cleaned of weeds; never set plants on a weedy ridge, as it multiplies the work, increases the expense of the crop, and often reduces the yield of potatoes by stunting the growth of the plants.

In planting, set the slips a little deeper than they were in the plant bed. Just after a shower is the most favorable time for setting, although this can be successfully done in very hot dry weather as follows: (a) By watering the plants; (b) By puddling or mudding the roots, which consists of making a loblolly of thin clay mortar and dipping the roots into it. Balls of this moist clay will stick to the roots and stem and, if planted at once, will tide the plant over 9 or 10 days of protracted drought.

WHAT THE FARMERS ARE DOING IN TENNESSEE

Mr. Henry Anderson, R. F. D. 1, East, Tennessee, owns 63 acres of land and raised

4 bales of cotton.
240 bales of hay.
900 lbs. of meat.
50 bushels of potatoes.
50 gallons of molasses.
25 bushels peas.
3 bushels peanuts.
7 bushels wheat.
350 bushels corn.

He only worked 18 acres. No one except him and his wife in a nice, comfortable home. His wife raised 225 head of fine chickens and plenty of milk and butter.

His two sons own places joining his and raised:

Mr. Charlie Anderson—
250 bales hay.
375 bushels corn.
10 bushels peas.
40 bushels "Nancy Hall" potatoes.
9½ bales cotton.
100 gallons molasses.
800 lbs. meat.
5 bushels peanuts.

He owns 63 acres of land, has seven children, only three work-hands. He also owns a 1917 five-passenger Ford.

Mr. Milard Anderson—
75 bushels potatoes.
10 bushels wheat.
8 bales cotton.
73 gallons molasses.
300 bales of hay.
100 bushels corn.
800 lbs. meat.

He also owns 63 acres of land and has six children, three work hands.

Mr. C. J. Calloway and Mr. Booker T. Washington with Miss Goins, the

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county supervisor, visited the Rosenwald schools of Conecuh County on Tuesday, November 21st.

They found the schools in good condition.

The mother's clubs and the improvement associations gave them a hearty welcome. Lunch was served them at China by the Mother's Club.

One of these schools is named for Mr. Washington and one for Mr. Calloway.

Mr. Washington was well pleased with the work at the Washington-Rosenwald school at Nichburg.

The schools were very glad to have these distinguished visitors and hope they will come again soon.

The county Superintendent of Education, Mr. R. E. L. Key, aided in every way possible to make the inspection of the Rosenwald schools a success.

— Reporter.

A GREAT EXTENSION MOVEMENT

Results from Farmers' Conference and Guilford County Negro Fair At the A. & T. College, November 21-25, 1916

Possibly the greatest agricultural extension movement known in the history of Western North Carolina, originated in the A. & T. College Farmer's Conference, and Guilford County Negro Fair which convened jointly at the North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College Nov. 21-25, 1916. Both were a decided success. A great deal of most helpful and practical information was given the farmers by experts from the State Department at Raleigh, and some very creditable exhibits, representing nearly every department of a State Fair, were most tastefully displayed.

The Farmers' Conference began Nov. 22, at 10 a. m. with a good audience of farmers and agricultural students. It continued through Friday with increasing interest each day.

Each farmer brought with him an exhibit which was installed while he attended the conference, at the close of which in the afternoon, they had an opportunity to see, and study the merit of the various agricultural products.

This display was made in the Mechanical Building which was filled to its utmost capacity. although this Fair has been far surpassed in quantity, to my mind it was superior in quality, to any Colored Fair I have seen in this State.

The Rural Supervisor, Mrs. B. H. Falker, had a fine display of her county work, and took a great many premiums while the Ladies Clubs of the city, namely: the Greensboro Art Club, The Acme Club, and others also exhibited some very excellent Domestic Art work along the line of sewing, embroidery, crocheting and all kinds of fancy work, and won a goodly number of premiums.

We had also a "Better Baby Contest," and there were some very fine "Youngsters" on exhibition. Prof. A. L. Mebane's baby was by far the best in the contest, and took the first premium.

A. & T. College had on exhibition some very nice work done by the Summer School teachers. The work of the Academic and the Mechanical Departments was of a very excellent quality.

The A. & T. Farm had a very fine exhibit of canned goods, corn, pumpkins, collards and other products produced by the students in this Department.

The Dairy and Poultry Plants were, as usual, well represented.

The agricultural exhibits of the farmers, though small, were of a very fine quality. Some of the nicest pumpkins I have ever seen anywhere were exhibited. Corn, wheat, cowpeas, garden-peas, okra, beans, potatoes, peanuts, fruits, poultry, eggs etc., were on exhibition. And strange to say, there was only one coop of poultry exhibited that was not pure-bred.

There was a splendid display of canned goods by the Rural Supervisor of the "Canning and Home-Makers Club," cooking and work along their line were also shown.

The Boy's Corn Club exhibit was decidedly better than it was at the State Fair. The corn was of a much higher quality, and a great deal more of it. The boys took five of the seven premiums given by the Fair for corn in competition with the men.

Now I can not begin to describe this Conference and Fair, in this limited space. There were about $100.00 worth of premiums given away, and every body seemed to have been well pleased; before we adjourned, over 200 shares were sold to the various farmers and teachers, and what promises to be one of the biggest affairs of its kind in this section of the State, will possibly be called "The Western North Carolina Negro State Fair." They already have an option on ten acres of land near the A. & T. College, with a partly made race track where they expect to erect suitable buildings soon and hold the only Negro Fair in the State, owned, controlled and operated by our people exclusively. They promise to have all the attractions common to the best Fairs in the State, paying each exhibitor the premium they win, and each share holder his part of the profit on his share.

They propose to have the biggest, best, cleanest and most successful Negro fair ever held in the State of North Carolina.

NEGRO FARMER MAKES RECORD

This Industrious Agriculturist Produced 19 Bales of Cotton on 30 Acres — Also Made 1,000 Bushels Potatoes—Has 80 Head of Hogs, 80 Head of Chickens, 27 Head of Oxen —He and Seven Sons Also Do Logging — Brought in Season's Best Specimen of Potato.

More than half a bale of cotton to the acre is the record made by an old Negro, Aaron Sims, on Harris County lands. Sims' farm is at Huffman, where he owns 500 acres, part of which is under cultivation, part pasture, and the remainder in a woodland tract.

This year Sims planted 30 acres in cotton, from which he has just harvested and marketed 19 bales. With the average price of cotton this season around 18 cents, his approximate income from this crop alone was more than $1,700, which was exclusive of seed.

But he has not farmed in cotton alone. Sims is the proud possessor of 80 head of hogs, which he has raised mainly on sweet potatoes, to say nothing of about 80 chickens.

Sims was an interesting visitor Friday at the Chamber of Commerce, where he related his story to Assistant General Manager G. C. Roussel. He brought in a giant tuber to show Mr. Roussel, which he pronounced to be the best specimen of potato that has been brought to the Chamber of Commerce this season.

The potato weighed 10¼ pounds and is perfectly formed. There have been other large potatoes, some weighing eight and nine pounds, but even these were gnarled and twisted in a torturous fashion. With the exception of a few natural eyes and creases the potato is perfectly smooth.

From tip to tip it is 9½ inches long and measures 7 inches in diameter. In circumference the long way it is 27 inches, and around the middle it is 22 inches in circumference.

Sims said that he raised this year nearly 1000 bushels of potatoes, but, of course, they were not nearly the size of the giant he brought to the Chamber of Commerce. He says he has feed most of them to his hogs.

When asked how he raised them he said "I don't know, boss; I just planted them and they just growed."

In addition to his farm work, Sims and his sons, seven in number, do logging work for several saw mills in the vicinity of their home. Sims owns 27 head of oxen with which he does this work. He says this work alone is sufficient to provide for himself and his family.—*Houston Post.*

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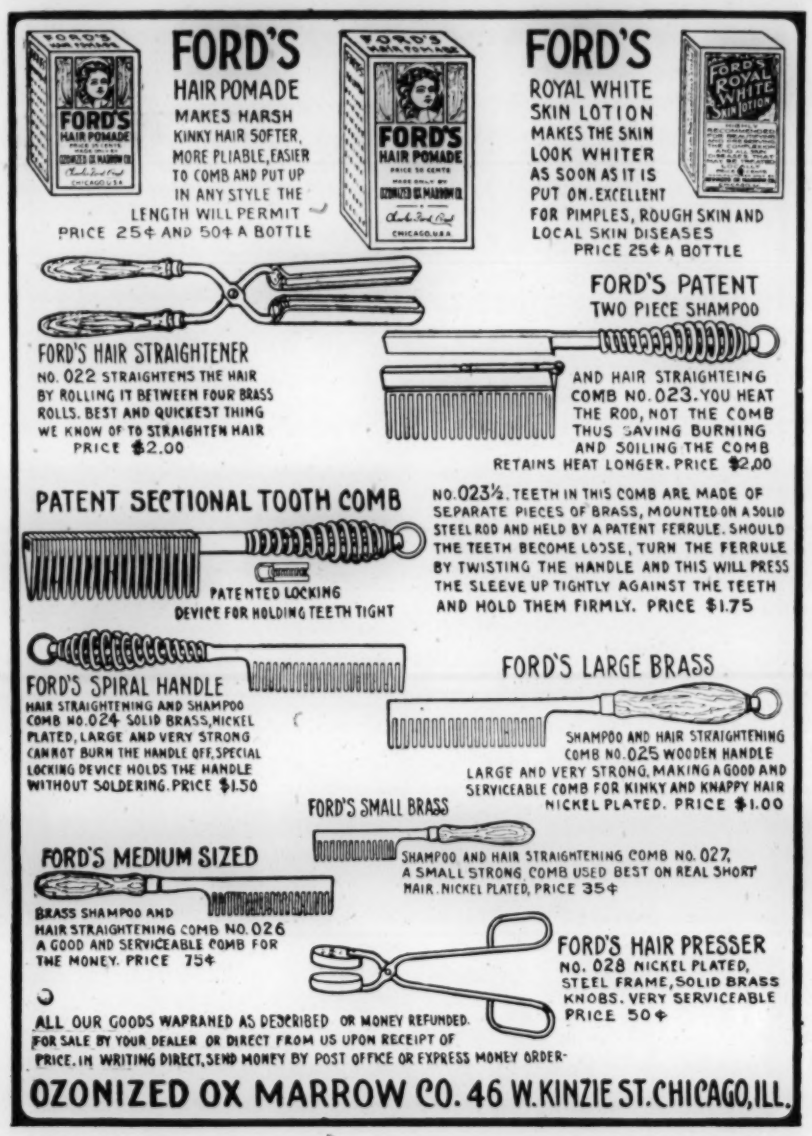
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THE NEGRO FARMER AND MESSENGER

VERNON W. BARNETT
Editor and Business Manager

Entered as Second-Class Mail Matter, February 4, 1914, at the Post Office at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1916

CHRISTMAS

A few more days and Christmas will be here. The dear little boys and girls in the many nooks and corners of our great country have already begun to draw heavily on their imaginations. Their eyes have already begun to brighten and their ears, as it were, put in first-class condition that they may hear the first sound of St. Nicholas' sleigh or the gladsome music made by the hoofs of his swift little horses. I see the little fellows now as they go early to bed for fear that "Dear old Santa" will come and find them awake and pass them by.

But in their childlike curiosity they find it hard to keep their dear little heads beneath the warm blankets in which they have been so snugly wrapped and once in a while that little head steals out from under the cover and two little eyes are strained to their greatest capacity to catch even through the dense darkness, one faint glimpse of the "dear old man" as he unwraps his bundles of toys and packages of dainties. God bless such childlike innocence and such Christlike purity!

True Meaning of Christmas

But what is Christmas? What does it mean to you and to me? What does it mean to the world? In the first place, it is the most sacred of all holidays because it is a celebration of the birthday of Christ the Lord. The birthday of Him who without spot or blemish shouldered the responsibilities of a sinful world and filled the hearts of men with a hope of eternal joy and gladness. It is the birthday of Him who was willing to endure the hate and scorn of kings and potentates, that He might heal the blind, cure the sick, encourage the broken-hearted, lift up the fallen and save a world from the deadly sting of eternal shame and degradation. This great event—Christmas—marks the advent of that great character that struck sin, superstition and selfishness a death blow and convinced the world that only that life is worth the while that is spent in scattering the sunshine of usefulness, of whole-hearted service throughout the field of human endeavor.

Then Christmas to you—to me—to everyone of us, should mean not only a day of bodily pleasure and frivolous pastime, but it should afford the very best possible opportunity for improvng our spiritual natures, our benevolent ambitions, as well as to form new resolutions for better and nobler service.

Just as that life whose birthday we celebrate, carried with it joy and peace and good will to all men, so if we would get the greatest good, the greatest strength and consolation out of this day, we too, must throw off the spirit of indifference, of narrow-hearted selfishness, and let the interest, the happiness and success of the other man occupy an important position in our daily program, for the most direct road to true happiness is through sharing the burdens and discomforts of my neighbor.

But! How Shall I Spend Christmas?

You cannot ask yourself a more important question except it be—"How would Christ have me spend Christmas?" For a number of years, custom has dictated an exchange of costly presents. Many of our people have spent far beyond their means in order to avoid the criticism of those whose hearts are wrapped up in the matter of presenting costly "Christmas gifts." It is altogether pleasant to receive Christmas tokens when the giver is able to afford it, but nothing is more unwise and painful than to see persons who are continually living in want and financial straights, trying to make costly presents. An authority has said that "Present giving is derived from an old heathen custom." Whether this be true or not, there is one thing certain, too many of our people who are unable, undertake it. The result is, continued poverty, misery, and many times, dishonesty. Are there persons in your community who are discouraged, who are inclined to give up? Better to give your little mite to them than to those who do not need it. Better to spend an hour with them Christmas, catch hold of their hands and smile upon them and tell them to try again. Do you not know that a kind word and smiling countenance have saved many a discouraged individual? Do you not know that many an individual who today is lagging in the mire of sin and debauchery would stand on higher ground if each of us would say the kindly word, do the kindly deed or give the cheerful smile? Many are stifling in the quagmire of vice and ignorance becanse too many of the "select class" are afraid to dismount, as it were, the seat of social prominence and mingle for a while with those whose social standing is lower, and point the way to higher and nobler things. Can you find a better time to begin this social service than Christmas? The civilization of a race or nation is no higher than its humblest members.

Spend Christmas Soberly

There was a time when many of our people felt that Christmas was a time to become intoxicated. Four factors have helped us to solve this vexing problem—the church, the school, the prohibition laws and the boll weevil. I am glad that the majority of our people have resolved to stop this drink habit. I wish that every member of the race would realize how very hurtful the drink habit is to his own body, to his morals, to his family, to his race and to the nation. I wish every one, dear readers, a merry, sober, useful and God-fearing Christmas!

SOLVING THE FERTILIZER PROBLEM

The last issue of THE NEGRO FARMER AND MESSENGER contained an article by Prof. George W. Carver, Director of Experiment Station, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, on Compost. This article is in bulletin form and is one of the most helpful leaflets ever issued from the Station and will be worth thousands of dollars to this country, if our people will take hold of the lessons outlined. Professor Carver will gladly mail you one on request. Don't fail to send for it, for it fully and surely solves the fertilizer problem.

NEGRO CONFERENCE NOTES

A. W. Waver of East Tallassee, a member of the local conference of Thadeus community, Tallapoosa County, Alabama, made three and one-half bales of cotton with one plow this year, 175 bushels of corn, 30 bushels potatoes, 10 bushels peas, 70 bales of hay, 1,210 bundles of fodder, will kill 375 pounds of meat. Mrs. Lizzie Ware, his wife, has sold $7.00 worth of chickens and eggs.

Mack Waver, of the same local conference, reported that he made 250 bushels corn, 40 bushels of peas, 150 bushels potatoes, three bales of cotton; will kill 1,000 pounds of meat, has nine turkeys. Mr. Waver says he is not planning to go North.

Mr. Willie Hutchison reported in conference that he made 46 gallons of syrup, 150 bushels of corn, 30 bushels of peas, 37 bushels of potatoes; he will kill 400 pounds of meat.

Emanuel Harvy reported one hundred bushels of corn, 75 bushels of peas, 20 bushels potatoes, 2 bales cotton; he is clear of debt and has a net profit from his productions.

J. C. Lamar reported three bales of cotton, 200 bushels of corn, 25 gallons of syrup, 30 bushels of peas, 72 bushels of potatoes.

Hester Palmer reported 26 bushels of potatoes, 12 bushels of ground peas, 5 bales of cotton, 56 gallons of syrup, 125 bushels or corn.

Mrs. Lizzie reported 44 gallons of syrup, three bales of cotton, 75 bushels corn, 10 bushels potatoes.

Sandy Chandler of Macon County, Opelika, R. F. D. No. 8, made 9 bales of cotton, with three plows, 700 bushels of corn, 200 bushels of potatoes, 200 gallons of syrup, will kill 1,600 pounds of meat; made 30 bushels of peas, raised 40 head of guineas, and 120 head of chickens. He has six milk cows, has sown 60 acres of oats, has 10,000 bundles of fodder, two tons of hay. Mr. Chandler is in the stock raising business. Mrs. Chandler, his wife, has canned 145 jars of fruit this year. They are preparing to live in spite of the boll weevil.

Alonzo Finley of Camp Hill, Alabama, made this year 200 bushels of corn, 50 bushels potatoes, 30 bushels of peas, will kill 700 pounds of meat. He has a good supply of milk and butter on hand. Mr. Finley has also bought and paid for 80 acres of land. He is a regular conference member.

Mr. Isaac Todd of LaFayette, Chambers County, owns 160 acres of land, will make 11 bales of cotton with three mules, will kill 500 pounds of meat this winter, made 75 gallons of syrup, 250 bushels of corn, 70 bushels of potatoes.

J. A. Jennings of Camp Hill, Alabama, made seven bales of cotton with two plows, 200 bushels corn, 60 gallons syrup, 2,360 bundles of fodder, one and one half tons of hay, 6 bushels ground peas. He sold this year $12.00 worth of syrup. Mrs. Jennings has sold $15.00 worth of chickens and eggs; also $3.00 worth of pears. He is ready for Mr. Boll Weevil.

Mr. E. D. Wililams of LaFayette, Alabama, made with one plow nine bales of cotton, 140 gallons of syrup, 150 bushels corn, 80 bushels potatoes, 30 bushels peas. He will kill 400 lbs. of meat this winter. He cleared three bales of cotton as his share this year. Mr. Williams carries out the conference idea.

COMFORTABLE HENS LAY THE MOST EGGS

BY A. C. SMITH
Minnesota Experiment Station

Farm flocks are often too much exposed to the weather; the farmer would realize more from his poultry if he did not allow them out doors during the fall and winter. The idea often advanced that poultry can withstand any amount or degree of cold weather provided it is dry, is not borne out by experience. Poultry should not be exposed to either wind or rain in autumn.

House the birds comfortably if you wish eggs. Keep them in the house after the ground freezes. Let them out only during the middle of the day, as a rule after the frost comes. If you cannot take the trouble to get them in early in the afternoon, keep them in.

NAVASOTA NEGRO SELLS SOME BALE

Afro-American Farmer in Grimes County Sold 764-Pound Bale of Cotton for 18.30 Cents Per Pound at Navasota Last Week—Bale Brought $139.81—Seed Sold for $42—Grand Total of $181.81 Realized on This Unusual Bale.

Just as we predicted, there is never any telling what the future has in store. A Negro boy named Anderson Potter, brought to Navasota yesterday afternoon a bale of cotton weighing 764 pounds. The bale was weighed at walker's warehouse and sold soon afterward at 18.30 cents per pound, netting for the cotton $139.81. The seed brought $42, which, added to the price of the cotton, netted the darky $181.81.

Such bales are unsual. In the first place, a bale is rarely ever permitted to be made into that size of an affair, and we would not doubt but what both the Navasota and the Bryan bales were the last pea in the dish, so to speak, and were made into large packages for that reason. In all events, both bales were whoppers and their like may never be seen again. —*Navasota Examiner-Review.*

NOTICE TO THE AGENTS OF THE MADAM C. J. WALKER MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INDIANAPOLIS

Dear Co-Workers:

You are hereby notified that during the month of August, 1917, at a place named later, we shall organize all agents who are regularly qualified and duly registered on the books of the Company, into a national body.

The purpose of this organization is; first, to have a National Body of Workers, with a common intent and purpose; second, to know who the agents of Madam C. J. Walker Mfg. Company are; third, to protect all such agents against misrepresentations and false statements of fakes and imposters, and last, to have this organization, its rules and regulations so strict, and perfect, until it will be utterly impossible for any one to handle our goods, unless such a one is a regular agent of the Company, and is a member of the National Organization.

To encourage and stimulate this spirit of organization, beginning January 1st, 1917, we shall give away five hundred dollars ($500.00) in prizes to the agents selling the largest number of boxes of our goods; to the agent returning the largest number of boxes in good condition; to the agent sending in the largest number of new agents; and to the agent responsible for the largest number of delegates to the National Organization referred to above. These prizes will range from five ($5.00) dollars to one hundred ($100.00) dollars.

To further help and encourage this movement from the date of this notice to the time of the meeting of the National Organization, we shall admit new agents and supply them with outfits, upon the receipt of ten (10.00) dollars, at this office, with the understanding that they will pay the balance on or before the date of the National Organization.

All who wish to compete in this contest, please send in your name and address.

The Madam C. J. Walker
Manufacturing Company.

MR. FARMER, PLEASE ORGANIZE

BY C. D. MENAFEE,
U. S. Farm Demonstrator

Mr. Farmer, do you live in any community so far back in the sticks that all of your associates are lower animals? What is the name of your community? Do you live in Big Swamp or Little Swamp community, or do you live in Cross Road or Fork Road settlement? Do you live in Jackson's quarters or Johnson's quarters? Mr. Farmer, please tell me where you live?

Is your community well organized and are you holding a good live farmers' meeting once a month? Have you given your community an appropriate name? If not, I judge that you are a "stickman" and have no neighbors with whom you can cooperate in talking over and working out the many problems that are now confronting the farmers.

Mr. Farmer, is your community a progressive organization doing co-operative work, or are you teaching your fellow farmer habits characteristic of lower animals which, when turned out in the fall, kick, hook, knock and bite each other, as they meet upon different plantations? Are you criticizing your neighbor for having made bad bargains or poor crops? For having inferior clothes or lack of judgment in providing for his family? Mr. Farmer, why not gain his confidence, advise him in the matter of properly conducting his affairs, make him a member of your organization which should stand for pure "brotherhood." Do you care whether he lives or dies? Do you love him as you do yourself? Do you do by him as you would be done by? These principles are the chief attributes to a successful community.

Organization, the First Principle of Good Farming

Organization to any community means strength, thus the necessity of united efforts. The old adage, "United we stand, divided we fall," should be the motto of every community. Organize and discuss all current topics of interest to both old and young. Learn to buy your cabbages, your soap, your seed, in fact, all your supplies in large quantities as there is more economy in buying by wholesale than by retail. Are you familiar with the market and the prices of various commodities sufficiently to guard against being cheated in your dealings? If not, it is as impossible to have a prosperous organization, as it is for one soldier to capture one million soldiers from the ranks of the enemy.

Do you realize the condition in which your community exists? If your farmers make from one to three bales of cotton to the plow, how much do you think they will make with more boll weevils? Are you organized to fight them in concert action? Farmers, do you know that the prosperity of the South is dependent upon the success of your community? Make good, produce such crops as will bring money to the South for its up-keep. Organization does not only apply to farmers, but to other leading factors of the South as well that may be instrumental in encouraging the laboring class of people to stay on the farms rather than seek other places of livelihood.

Mr. Farmer, organize for information.

Organize for profit.
Organize for strength.
Organize for character.
Organize for community work.
Organize that your work may be a source of pleasure.

INCREASE CROP YIELDS

States Relations Service Shows Progress and Accomplishments of Extension Work in South

Fields farmed as demonstrations in agriculture under the supervision of county agents of the Office of Extension Work, South, returned in 1915 as a rule yields 100 per cent in excess of the average for the section, according to the annual report of the States Relations Service issued by the department. The demonstration work, it is stated, resulted in the widespread adoption of better methods, paticularly in the preparation of land, selection of seeds, and cultivation of crops.

During the year 1915, 731 regular county agents, 407 women county agents, and 26 special boys' club agents were engaged in the southern extension work. They carried on work with 110,000 adult farmers, approximately 63,000 boys, nearly 7,000 women, and about 33,000 girls. In 1916 these figures have been increased

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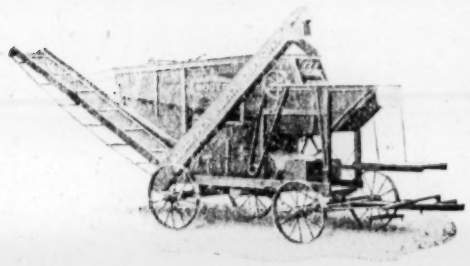

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to 110,000 farmers, 63,000 boys, 48,000 girls, and 30,000 women.

During the year the office perfected its organization through the State college of agriculture for demonstration work among Negroes, and on July 1 had 51 men and 5 women Negro agents at work in 11 States. While the white agents have from the beginning assisted the Negro farmers and tenants, it was found advisable in some counties where there is a large Negro population to appoint a Negro agent to work entirely with Negroes. Frequently the Federal funds alloted for Negro agent work are supplemented by local funds subscribed by the Negro population. In some States a Negro district agent supervises the work of the local Negro agent. There is a close co-operation between the Negro agents and the Negro schools, Negro agricultural colleges, and other institutions of the State working along the same lines. These agents are instructing and helping thousands of Negro landowners and tenants, the plan of work being very similar to that of the white agents. Special stress is placed upon the production of home supplies for the family and stock, and upon the improvement of sanitary and home conditions. Negro children are also receiving instructions, as is partially evidenced by the enrollment of 2,800 members in what are called farm-makers' clubs, the members of which are taught to crop crops, can and preserve fruits and vegetables, and perform other service intended to be helpful to them and to the community.

In addition to its regular activities, the Office of Extension Work, South, carried on during the year several special campaigns, wherever it was deemed advisable, in hog cholera control, tick eradication, and boll-weevil control work. The office made progress in its work, seeking to make permanent the changes of the past few years for greater diversification.

As evidence of this progress in diversification, it might be stated that in the eleven Southern States usually known as the "Cotton belt," from 1909 to 1916, inclusive, the acreage in cotton increased 15.7 per cent, the acreage in corn 22.2 per cent, the acreage in wheat 152.4 per cent, the acreage in oats 84.2 per cent, and the acreage in hay 39.5 per cent.

Some of the specific accomplishments of the demonstration work during the year were:

Demonstrations of various kinds were carried on covering nearly a million and a half acres of field crops, and more than two million fruit trees. Instruction was given to approximately 29,000 farmers in the care of manure, resulting in the saving of over 3,300,000 tons.

Four thousand five hundred and eighty-four silos and 1,579 dipping vats were built.

Six hundred seventy-eight co-operative organizations were formed to purchase fertilizers, and effected a saving to the communities of more than $125,000. And more than 1,700 community organizations of farmers were brought into existence through efforts of county agents.

Interest was aroused in live-stock production and resulted in bringing into the territory 1,776 pure-bred horses and mares, 8,639 pure-bred and high-grade dairy cattle, 12,560 pure-bred and high-grade beef cattle, 17,739 pure- bred hogs, and 9,568 pure-bred and high-grade sheep and goats.

More than 1,700,000 head of live stock were treated for various diseases and pests.

Boy-club members made an average production of 51.37 bushels of corn per acre.

Girl-club members put up 2,166,515 cans of fruits and vegetables, estimated to be worth $2oo,o00, making an average net profit per member of $24.

Numerous labor-saving devices were introduced in farm homes, egg circles and co-operative poultry associations were organized, a large number of women's community clubs were formed, and many other lines of work were carried on.

BOLL WEEVILS IN EVERY COUNTY IN ALABAMA

By W. E. HINDS,
Entomologist, Alabama Experiment Station

While the Alabama cotton crop has been suffering unprecedented damage from July rains, flooded farm lands and innumerable weevils, the boll weevil has not failed to make something like its usual advance in northeastern Alabama. Recent examination made by the Department of Entomology of Alabama Experiment Station, revealed the fact that Lauderdale County is now covered with a scattering infestation and the limit of infestation in Limestone County was found along the line of the L. & N. railway, some distance north of Elkmont. Scattering infestation was found throughout the southern parts of Madison extending as far north as Brownsboro, which is northeast of Huntsville. In Jackson County, weevils occur quite generally in the southwestern part of the county, diminishing in numbers up to Scottsboro. Scattered infestations were found in the southwestern part of DeKalb County and numerous infested fields in Southwestern Cherokee County, up to the line of Center. The weevil advance now brings this pest to within thirty miles of the extreme northeastern corner of this State. Killing frost occurred in northern Alabama on the morning of October 21st, thus checking further advance of the weevil for this season.

BOOKS FOR FARMERS' WIVES

No home is complete without a few good books and one or more magazines on home economics. As the long evenings approach most women will have some leisure. Now is the time to plan a course of reading for the coming winter. There are many new things being written along the following lines which should be of vital interest to every home maker: Household management, foods, clothing and textiles, home sanitation, care of the sick, invalid cookery, etc. Since no one book covers the entire subject of home economics, a list of suggestive books, magazines, and bulletins for home reading will be mailed free of charge upon request. Address Agricultural Extension Service, College of Agriculture, Columbia, Missouri.

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PLOWING CONTEST

BY H. H. BOGER,
Instructor in Agricultural Department, Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

At Tuskegee Institute on the morning of November 30th, was held the third annual plowing contest, between the students of different divisions of the Department of Agriculture. This year more than ever before a great amount of interest was worked several weeks before the contest.

Whenever the boys were handling a plow, no matter whether it was on the farm preparing the land for fall sowing; in the truck garden preparing the soil for fall planting of winter garden crops, or plowing dirt for grading purposes there was always present that determination to become entirely familiar with both plow and work animals and to establish that understanding and love between man and beast which are so necessary for good and successful work in the field, on the road, or whatever may be the task of these two different kinds of animals; for man is only a highly developed type of an animal.

For two days before the contest, there fell a heavy rain leaving the ground in a very poor condition for plowing. However, this did not deaden the spirits of the contestants nor their loyal supporters who began their cheering long before the starting signal and kept it up continually throughout the contest; in fact, every student was excited and expected their representative to win.

When the judges announced their decision, a great cry arose from the truck garden students; they rushed on to the field and raised No. 9, Edward Combs, to their shoulders, for he had won the most bitterly contested plowing match ever held on the Institute grounds. Second prize went to Lawyer Sykes of the Farm Division, who was in turn raised to the shoulders of the farm students.

The third prize went to Aaron Neal of the Truck Garden Division who was treated by his fellow workers in the like manner. There were 14 starters.

The divisions in the Agricultural Department represented were: Farm Division, Dairy Herd, Horse Barn, Agricultural Repairs, Swine Herd, Meat House, Orchard, Truck Garden, Feed and Supply, Agricultural Engineering, Creamery, and Agricultural Instructions.

The judges were: Mr. H. A. Vaughan, Mr. G. Y. Lamar, Mr. Hickson, Mr. E. F. Cauthen, of Auburn, Alabama, and Mr. A. L. Kimbought of the department of agriculture and industries, Montgomery, Ala. The work of the judges was very difficult, owing to the fact that there were so little difference in the work of each contestant; however, the decisions were highly satisfactory to all concerned.

The program was as follows:

1—Selection by the Band.

2—Remarks by Mr. Bridgeforth, Director of the Department of Agriculture.

3—Selection by the Band.

4—Signal for starting contest.

5—Decision of judges.

6—Awarding of prizes by Dr. Moton, Principal of Tuskegee Institute.

Rules governing the contest:

1—Each contestant was to select his own mule, according to number drawn.

2—Each division in the department of agriculture could have at least one contestant.

3—Each contestant had to have his mule harnessed and ready to start at 7:30 a. m. Any one failing in this was not allowed to enter the contest.

4—Each contestant was judged on the following points:

(a) Straightness, neatness and depth of furrow.

(b) Adjustment of harness and cleanliness of mule.

(c) Style in handling mule and plow.

Each contestant first laid off a scutter stock furrow, then threw a list of four rows on this.

Dr. Moton, before awarding the prizes to the winners, in a few well choosen words thanked Director Bridgeforth, the committee in charge and the student body for the splendid success of the third annual plowing contest.

BROWN HILL COMMUNITY FAIR

November 22, 1916

BY INEZ LEVERT, Teacher

On the first of November we were notified that we were to hold a community fair. Although we had already planned to bring our various community products together at some time during the fall, this notice caused us to quicken our pace and everybody seemed to have lost sight of any individual interest and set about his duty with an eye single to the good of the community. The surroundings of the school were whitewashed; yards, playgrounds, and lawns cleaned and school room beautified inside.

The following products from the homes were greatly in evidence: embroidery work, crocheting, sewing, artificial flowers, peanut molasses candy; garden, dairy, and poultry products, horse collars and canned fruits and vegetables.

The farm products were: sugar cane, potatoes, velvet beans, peas, cattle, and corn from two to eight ears to the stalk. All products were very tastefully arranged.

The school exhibit was very praiseworthy; it was as follows: plain sewing, embroidery, drawn work, crocheting, doll hammock, raffia, shuck and pine needle work, artificial paper flowers, willow baskets and flower stands.

Brown Hill being a Rosenwald school with cooking department, the visitors were served a very relishable meal prepared by the students.

As amusements, such simple games as potato and sack races were run.

After dinner was served, a most helpful program was carried out. The meeting was conducted by our supervisor, Miss S. L. Woodall. The speakers from Tuskegee Institute, Rev. W. S. Smith, pastor of Greenwood Baptist Church, and Mr. and Mrs. Buckner from the Academic Department, delivered most helpful addresses. Mr. Kimuel Huggins also delivered a splendid address. Each speaker stressed the importance of making the best of our present situation, staying where we are, working harder, and managing better.

To lend zest to the occasion, some excellent plantation melodies were sung.

Everybody returned home feeling greatly helped and with a determination of doing better next year.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

BY REV. G L. IMES,
Dean, Bible Training School, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

December 24

UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN

Isaiah 9:2-7

The lesson text is short, but the theme is mighty. This too is a vision: the vision of an ancient prophet who looked across the centuries and saw what John also saw, but with a nearer view five hundred years after. This also is a view of heaven, a land where the darkness has fled and a great light shines—the glory of God, John calls it. It is a place of great joy—there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, John says.

Oppression will disappear, says Isaiah—John says, there shall be no more curse. This shall be with noise and bloodshed, burning and fire: John says, some of you shall be cast into prison; ye shall have tribulation, but he that is faithful shall have a crown of life. Isaiah too describes the Christ: compare it with John's description in the first lesson from Revelation. The look ahead has been the inspiration of all the heroes of Faith.

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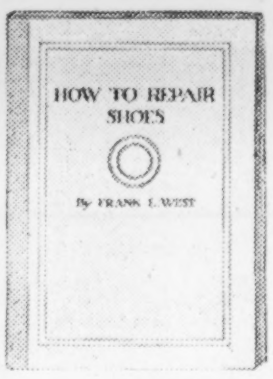

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